



The President's Daily Brief

22 October 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 October 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Vietnamese Communists may be thinking in terms of a cease-fire and a temporary division of South Vietnam between the GVN and the PRG. (Page 1)

The Chinese [redacted] (Page 2)

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[redacted] German [redacted] (Page 3)

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The Soviets seem to be preparing for another unmanned lunar mission. (Page 8)

General Viaux, who moved against the Frei government yesterday, announced the end of his revolt this morning. (Page 8)

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VIETNAM

Two documents captured in South Vietnam in late September are consistent with the hypothesis that the Communists may be thinking in terms of a cease-fire and a temporary division of the country between two governments--the GVN and the Communist PRG--with the question of national power left in doubt for the time being.

The documents appear to be briefing papers for the indoctrination of Viet Cong cadre on COSVN Resolution 9, the southern Communist version of the decisions reached during Hanoi's major policy review last April. This strategy review led to the announcement of the ten-point peace plan in May, which first hinted at the possibility of there being two regimes in South Vietnam during the period between a cease-fire and a political settlement.

The Communists, to judge from these two documents at least, seem to anticipate a gradual winding down of the big-unit war in South Vietnam and eventually a cease-fire situation. According to one document, it would be difficult to determine after a cease-fire "who is the winner and who is the loser." It urges Communist forces to be ready to launch the "political struggle" immediately. There is stress in these (as well as other) documents on the need for the Communists to have a firm hold on their base areas in mountainous and certain rural regions, thus implying that the Saigon government would hold the urban areas.

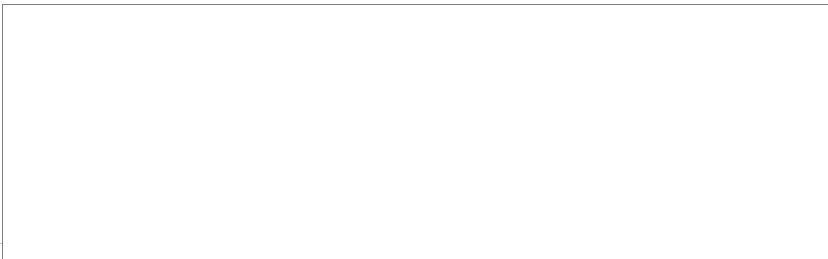
Ho Chi Minh's terminal illness this past summer may have been what interrupted the development of a scenario like this in Paris. The fact that some of the results of last spring's decisions in Hanoi are still being disseminated widely in South Vietnam suggests, nevertheless, that the basic policies made then are still intact.



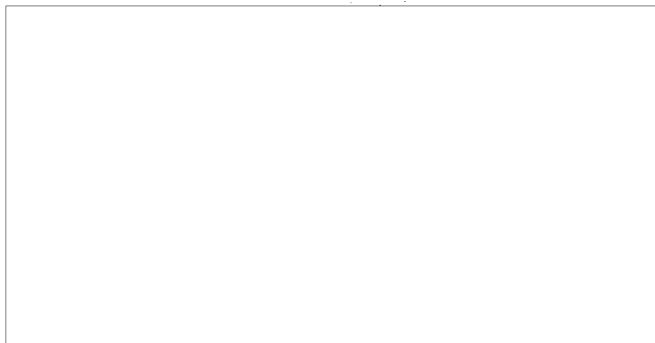
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COMMUNIST CHINA



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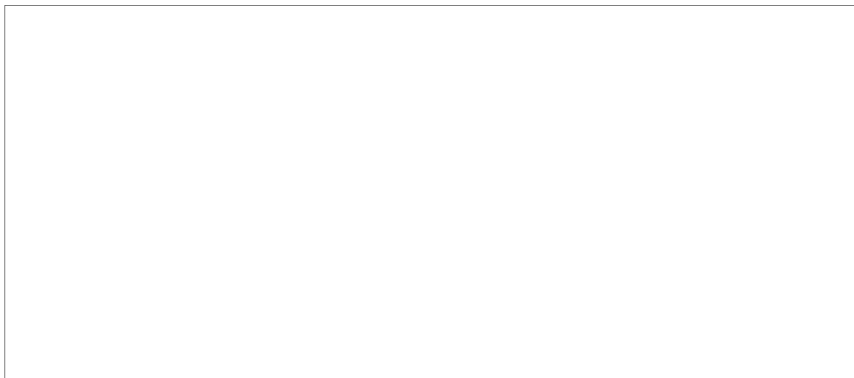


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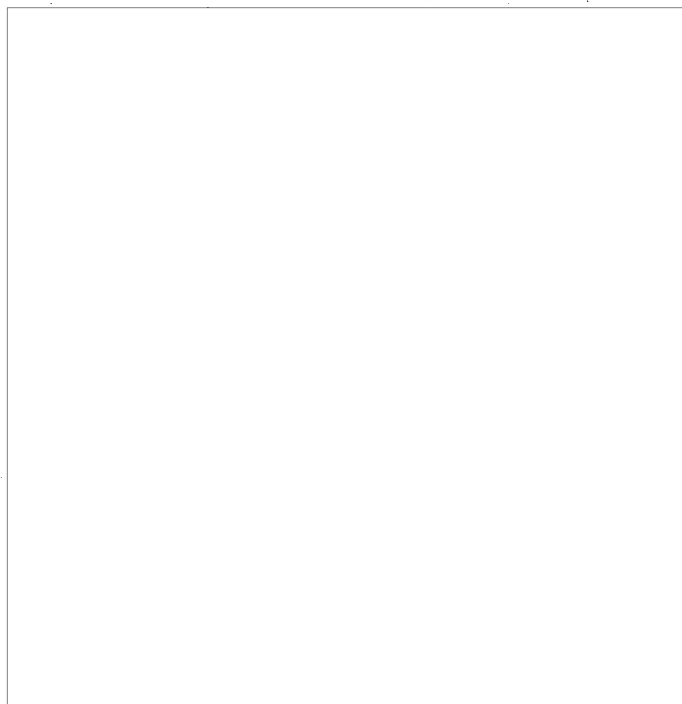
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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY



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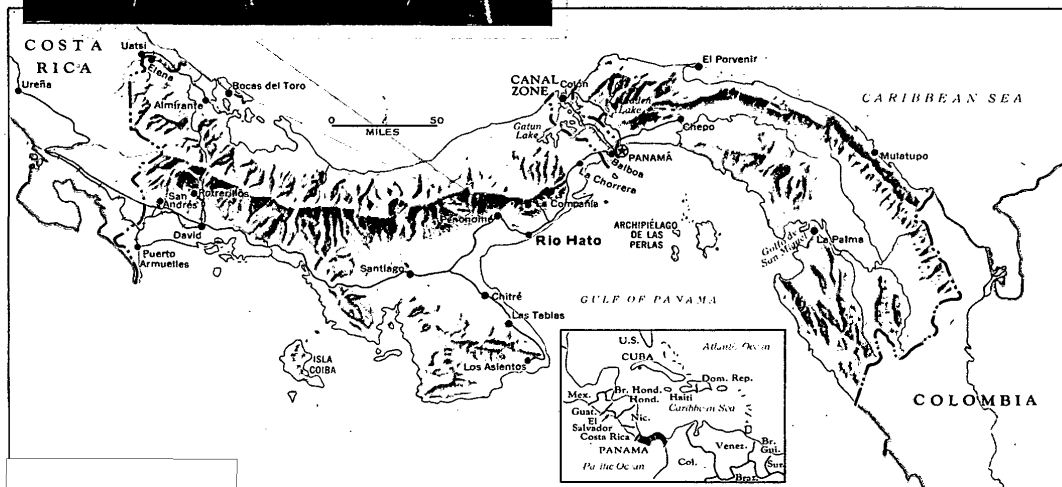
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Rio Hato - US military training facility and air base



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PANAMA

General Torrijos has indicated willingness to negotiate an extension of the Rio Hato Base agreement when it expires in August 1970. During a visit to the US earlier this month, he told General Westmoreland that he would support continued US use of the installation on an interim basis until the 1903 Canal Treaty is revised.

Last Friday Torrijos told the US Commander in Chief, Southern Command, General Mather, that a suitable quid pro quo would be an increase in the US sugar quota for Panama. Torrijos had earlier requested four T-28 aircraft and two helicopters. Although he did not link the request for military equipment with the base agreement, it is possible that he may do so.

Rio Hato, a 19,170-acre training area and air base, is the only US military installation outside the Canal Zone. Its continued use has been entwined with the complex canal treaty question. The draft treaties resulting from US-Panamanian negotiations from 1964 to 1967 included arrangements for continued use of the base by US forces.

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JAPAN

The police managed to contain yesterday's left-ist manifestation, even though for a time the demonstrators partially paralyzed Tokyo and disrupted other major towns. Hundreds of agitators were arrested.

The Sato government probably came out of all this with stronger public support for its position on maintaining defense ties with the US. The police, moreover, may have set back plans to disrupt Sato's departure for the US next month. They showed they could cope with the new "guerrilla" tactics of the radical students.

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IRAN

The international oil consortium, which controls almost all of Iran's crude oil output, has refused thus far to commit itself to use a pipeline the Shah wants to build from southern Iran to the Mediterranean port of Iskenderun in Turkey. It says the estimates of pipeline construction costs and probable transit tariffs are too low, and it also believes that tankers would offer more secure supply lines during crises. The consortium's lack of interest also is based on the large capital investments it already has made, under Iranian pressure, to increase Iran's tanker loading facilities in the Persian Gulf.

Without a commitment from the consortium, financing for the pipeline almost certainly cannot be obtained and this pet project of the Shah will be delayed or doomed.

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SOMALI REPUBLIC

The Somali constitution has been dissolved and a "revolutionary council" formed, according to Radio Mogadiscio. Army commander Siad and Jama Ali Korshel, the head of the police, are the only members of the council who have been identified so far.

The junta claims it acted to eliminate tribalism and corruption, but General Siad is also known to have opposed Prime Minister Egal's policy of detente with Ethiopia and Kenya.

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The junta has already announced that it will support all "freedom fighters." This by itself will probably provoke severe reactions in Addis Ababa and could easily produce new tension on the Ethiopia-Somali border.

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NOTES

USSR: [] the movement of Soviet support ships suggest that preparations are under way for an unmanned space mission which will orbit the moon and then attempt a soft landing. Favorable conditions for launch will exist between 23 and 27 October. The first Soviet mission of this type to leave earth orbit, Luna 15, was launched last July. After orbiting the moon, it crashed on the lunar surface in a soft landing attempt. A similar mission in September, Cosmos 300, failed to eject from earth orbit.

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USSR - Middle East: In a speech in Budapest on Monday, Soviet trade union chief Shelepin said that although the Soviets support a "political settlement" in the Middle East, the "struggle of the Palestinian patriots" is a "just national liberation and anti-imperialist struggle" which "we will support."

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Chile: General Viaux, who yesterday led two regiments against the Frei government, announced this morning that his revolt was over and he was turning his command over to a presidential emissary. We have no word on the other terms Viaux agreed to.

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